of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

Dividend paid by oil companies

1488. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dividend paid by Public Sector Oil Companies to Government during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the details of Central Taxes, duties etc. paid by the above companies during the same period;

(c) the amount collected through cess on oil produced by ONGC and OIL during the same period; and

(d) whether similar cess is paid by private oil producers, if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The dividend paid by public sector oil companies to the Government of India during the last three years is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details of central taxes and duties paid by these companies during the last three years in given in Statement -II (*See* below).

(c) The amount of cess collected on oil produced by ONGC & OIL during the last three years was approximately Rs. 9641 crore.

(d) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NEPL) for exploration and production of oil and gas, both National Oil Companies (NOCs) namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), and private companies are exempted from payment of cess on crude oil under Oil Industry Development Act, 1974.

Under the discovered fields Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), contractors (including ONGC and OIL wherever they are consortium partners), are required to pay cess @ Rs. 900 per metric tonne on crude oil.

In the pre-NELP exploration block PSCs, private companies are not required to pay any cess and the same is borne by the licensee of the respective block PSCs, i.e. ONGC or OIL.

Statement-I

Dividend paid to Government of India by Oil PSUs

(Rs. crore)

Company	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
ONGC	780.00	1319.00	3718.00
OIL	105.00	140.00	241.50
GAIL	170.85	227.80	427.10
IOC	255.49	606.78	1021.95
HPCL	145.00	173.00	208.00
BPCL	124.13	148.95	258.18
IBP	6.07	13.20	5.76
EIL	32.13	34.01	134.96
KRL	38.71	Nil-*	Nil*
CPCL	23.80	Nil-#	Nil#
BRPL	7.20	Nil#	Nil#

Note: *Government of India's shareholding transferred to BPCL

#Government of India's shareholding transferred to IOC

Statement -II

Central taxes & duties paid by the Oil PSUs

(Rs. crore)

Company	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
ONGC	8184.00	7889.00	12377.00
OIL	462.90	554.42	886.56
GAIL	818.00	843.00	1302.00
IOC	16118.12	16560.94	20675.86
HPCL	5589.00	5929.00	6968.00

Company	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
BPCL	4827.35	5059.17	6666.63
IBP	399.66	548.63	424.92
EIL	108.07	59.83	89.62
KRL	1468.35	1259.64	1890.06
CPCL	809.48	616.25	1154.51
BRPL	182.60	206.98	151.86

Setting up of Gas Trading Company by GAIL

1489. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd., proposes to set up a separate company to undertake gas trading work both in India and in overseas market;

(b) whether this proposed company will be a joint venture or in partnership with a private sector company; and

(c) by when, the new company is likely to be in position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The idea to set up a separate company to undertake gas trading by GAIL (India) Limited is at a conceptual stage and the decision in this regard would depend on the regulatory requirement in future. Details of the proposal have not been worked out.

Natural Gas Pipeline Grid by GAIL

1490. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL is planning to set up a National Gas Pipeline Grid;

(b) if so, by when the project will be completed and at what cost and in which area; and

(c) whether GAIL is adhering to the international practice of choosing gas pipeline for this kind of projects?